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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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January 17, 1953

IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE PRESIDENT KOERNER CALLS FOR EXPRESSION OF TRUE DEMOCRACY IN NEXT MONTH'S ELECTIONS. President Theodor Koerner of Austria issued the following new year's message to the Austrian people:

"As a politically mature people, we Austrians have shown ourselves capable of hard work and sacrifice in connection with the reconstruction of our country during the past seven years. We have stuck together like the crew of a storm-tossed ship who know that the thing of paramount importance is to reach haven safely, in our case the haven of freedom. With the dawning of the year 1953, which has important decisions in store for us, it is especially timely that we give renewed evidence of this maturity and this faith in true democracy."

Speaking of the forthcoming elections in February, Dr. Koerner said: "In the elections directly before us, Austrians will manfully stick to their personal views, but without conducting an unscrupulous election campaign that would endanger the cooperation of all those who want to work for reconstruction — a cooperation without which we cannot find the way to a better future. The weapons of the election campaign must consist of arguments sensibly presented and the persuasiveness of facts."

(Cont'd page 4.)

IN THE FACE OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS, RECONSTRUCTION POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH COOPERATION, SAYS VICE CHANCELLOR SCHAEF. In his New Year's message to the Austrian People, Vice Chancellor Leopold Schaerf, Socialist, said: "An eventful year has passed: the world has not yet found peace and our small country must continue to bear the burden of the Four-Power occupation as one of the most unfortunate victims of the Cold War. Now that the Marshall Plan is coming to an end, Austria has managed to build up and organize her economy in such a way that today it is in better shape than before 1938. This reconstruction was made possible only by the harmonious cooperation of all ranks of the population who feel that they have a responsibility for Austria and her people."

Full Employment and Housing Policy Successful

"We can face the new year with confidence," Dr. Schaerf continued. "The policy we have pursued has brought undeniable successes. It was a policy of full employment, better housing and preservation of the standard of living for all; it is also a policy designed to assure our youth a better future." He concluded by saying that on February 23 the Austrian people would be called upon, in true democratic fashion, to render a verdict on this policy of the past and to decide on a policy for the future.

U.N. DEBATE ON AUSTRIAN QUESTION PROVES THAT AUSTRIAN CAUSE IS JUST, SAYS CHANCELLOR FIGL.

In the course of an interview which he granted to a representative of the "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung," Chancellor Leopold Figl made the following statements:

"Although the just cause of Austria had already acquired an ever increasing number of advocates throughout the world, it was nevertheless the first time that all countries of the world concerned themselves intensively with the Austrian problem. What is more, forty-eight of them freely reached the conclusion that Austria's desire and demand for freedom were just.

Dr. Figl continued: "I welcome this great success for Austria most heartily. As I see it, the significance of this success is two-fold. First, there is the fact that the representatives of 48 nations have clearly come forward as the spokesmen and attorneys for Austria and her rights before the forum of world opinion; and, secondly, the fact that not a single member state of the United Nations voted against the resolution on Austria.

"We confidently expect the United Nations resolution to contribute importantly to a resumption of negotiations on the Austrian State Treaty. In view of the many congresses, speeches and publications which at precisely this time are so intensively engaged in propaganda for peace, it seems to us that a transition from theory to practice would not be untimely, with a view to finally reaching an agreement on those issues where a lack of it not only perpetrates general injustice but actually endangers the peace."

VIENNA CAN BE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR CHANGE IN GREAT POWER RELATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTER GRUBER SAYS. "Politically, morally and geographically, Vienna can be the point of departure for a change in the relations between the Great Powers," Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber said in the course of a lecture on "The Austrian Problem Before the United Nations" delivered at the University of Vienna on January 7, 1953.

Dr. Gruber emphasized that the United Nations debate on Austria could be regarded as a possible starting point for a new high-level conference of the Great Powers, since they had removed the Austrian problem from the realm of actual treaty negotiations and had discussed it in the light of its international political connotations. "We shall use every possible means at our disposal," he stated, "to bring such a conference to pass. However, we shall not achieve a change by showing ourselves weak in the face of encroachments on our

rights, but by making Austria's rights the point of departure for our efforts."

Austria Can Never Become Part of Soviet Alliance

The Austrian Foreign Minister then went on to say: "The question of a neutralization of Austria cannot be solved by the Austrian Government alone. Neutralization could only be the result of a four-power decision. Some have fallen into the habit of analyzing the Austrian problem from the Soviet viewpoint only. This shows little realism. The West would never agree to Austria's becoming a plaything of arbitrary Soviet action. If Austria is to become a means for achieving a balance in international relations, such a situation must be predicated on Soviet recognition of Austria as a really free and independent country. Austria cannot become a part of the Soviet system of alliances."

Treaty has Become Soviet Self-created Roadblock to Overall Détente

Dr. Gruber then observed that the negotiations on the Austrian State Treaty reflected the fact that the Soviet Union was unwilling to live up to its part of the agreement, even after its extensive demands had been acceded to. Soviet foreign policy would therefore find that it had set up a self-created roadblock to a new cooperation with her former war partners — a roadblock around which there was no secret detour and one which had to be removed jointly.

"In any case the Austrian problem will remain on the agenda until it is finally solved," Dr. Gruber concluded.

WESTERN POWERS TO APPROACH MOSCOW ON RESUMPTION OF AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS. The "Neues Oesterreich" reported that at the end of December the United States, Great Britain and France agreed that they would enter into consultations regarding the Austrian problem after the Christmas holidays.

The three Western Powers intend to approach the Soviet Union with the request that an Austrian State Treaty be concluded as soon as possible, in keeping with the recent resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The paper quotes a report from Washington to the effect that American diplomats do not regard the United Nations appeal as an end result in itself, but rather as the starting point for further efforts to solve the problem. New measures are said to be in the offing to end the occupation of Austria.

RUSSIANS SEIZE RUBBER TRUNCHEONS FROM AUSTRIAN POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH COMING ELECTIONS. At the end of December, the "Wiener Zeitung" reported that Russian flying squads made the rounds of Austrian gendarmerie stations in Lower Austria and the Burgenland where they demanded that the rubber truncheons carried by the Austrian police be surrendered to them. In order to circumvent any Austrian complaint to the Allied Council, the Soviet action was carried out during the Christmas holidays. Austrian police officials who refused to hand over their "sticks" were expelled from the district and warned against carrying out any further duties in the area.

Minister of the Interior Helmer Protests Brutal Action

Following this gross interference on the part of the Soviet occupation authorities, Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer issued a statement in which he said: "The rubber truncheons with which the gendarmerie forces in all other zones were equipped, as weapons of defense in their war against crime, are now being taken from them by force and personal threats. The brutal action of individual Soviet Russian commanders against the Austrian Gendarmerie is noted, but under strong protest. In any case, this action again shows up to the whole world the conditions prevailing in the Soviet Zone of Austria. Nor will it help promote an especially friendly attitude toward the occupation regime."

Undersecretary of State Graf Declares Action was Taken on Higher Orders

Ferdinand Graf, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior, supplemented the Minister's statement with the following remarks: "This action — the first of its kind — represents a flagrant interference in Austrian internal affairs, and there is no rational justification for it. On the contrary, it creates the impression that the Soviets wish to protect those very individuals against whom the rubber truncheon is intended. Above all, one cannot forbear the impression that the Soviet Occupying Power wants to take an active part in the coming election campaign. It is obvious that the Russians acted on higher orders when they took this concerted action of requisitioning the truncheons."

The Soviet area commander for the Muehlviertel (the northern part of Upper Austria between the Danube and the Czechoslovak border - Ed.) had issued similar orders, but rescinded them at the end of December.

COMMUNIST VOTERS "CHANGE" THEIR LEGAL RESIDENCE IN ORDER TO CONCENTRATE POLL REGISTRATION. The "Presse" recently reported that the Communist Party of Austria has "moved" a considerable number of Communists before December 9, 1952 — the deadline for registering at the polls for the national elections to be held on February 22. According to law, eligible voters must cast their vote in the election district where they register, i.e. where they have their legal residence.

The "changes" in legal residence involved moves from various areas in the Soviet Zone of occupation, including the 4th Municipal District of Vienna, to the districts of Leopoldstadt, Floridsdorf and Brigittenau, which are part of the Vienna-Northeast election district and are likewise in the Soviet Zone. The "Presse" states that the feigned moves of the Communists "is an attempt on their part to salvage their second basic mandate." (According to Austrian electoral law no party can be represented in Parliament unless it receives one "basic" mandate - Ed.).

The report further states that many of the Communists who "moved" had but recently registered as residents of houses which are under Soviet requisition. The "Presse" believes that this was done in order to circumvent house owners who are required by law to sign registration slips.

Similar new registrations with the police authorities, which would seem to indicate that the Communists were pursuing the same tactics elsewhere as well, have been recorded in Wiener Neustadt and vicinity.

CHIEF ELECTION AUTHORITY THWARTS COMMUNIST MANEUVER TO DOUBLE BOARD-OF-ELECTION ASSESSORS. Austria's chief election authority decided in December not to grant the so-called Leftist Bloc (i.e., Communist Party and left-wing Socialists) any special assessors at the various election boards, inasmuch as Communist Party chairman Koplenig had announced that the Communists were joining the so-called "People's Opposition." Five judges concurred in the decision, which is in accordance with the Austrian Constitution in view of the fact that the Leftist Bloc had not stated whether it wished to campaign on a separate ticket.

Commenting on the situation, the "Neue Wiener Tageszeitung" writes: "Various indications point to the conclusion that the Communists are approaching the coming elections with mixed feelings. If it does not obtain a basic mandate, the Communist Party of Austria would no longer be represented in Parliament. In that event, the Communists would have a convenient excuse for backing out, namely, they could claim that the elections had been 'rigged'."

DR. GRUBER POSTPONES BONN TRIP UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. At a press conference early in January, Austrian Foreign Minister Gruber told newsmen that he had decided to postpone his contemplated trip to Bonn, Germany, until after the national elections on February 22, 1953.

In this connection he added that Federal Chancellor Adenauer had told him during a talk in Paris that his visit would be welcome in Bonn. Dr. Gruber, however, felt that during an election campaign the political climate was not suitable for a fruitful visit.

QUEEN JULIANA SPENT A FEW DAYS IN AUSTRIA AT THE END OF 1952. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands spent a few days in St. Anton-am-Arlberg at the end of December. She was accompanied by her daughters.

AMBASSADOR LOEWENTHAL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN SANTO DOMINGO AND HAVANA. Dr. Max Loewenthal-Chlumecky, the Austrian Ambassador to the United States, flew to Santo Domingo (Trujillo City) and Havana at the end of December to present his credentials as envoy to the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

DR. MARTIN FUCHS APPOINTED AUSTRIAN MINISTER TO BELGIUM. Dr. Martin Fuchs, former chief of the Austrian Information Department in New York City, was appointed Austrian Minister to Belgium, and was received by Belgian Foreign Minister Paul van Zeeland in Brussels on January 7, 1953. A week later Dr. Fuchs presented his credentials to King Baudouin.

VOEST OPENS NEW HOT-STRIP MILL AND CONVERTER DEPARTMENT. On January 5, the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST) officially placed into operation at their Linz plant a hot-strip mill and converter department. The new facilities, among the most modern anywhere in the world, provide a novel refining method for the low-cost production of steel. The new installation is the second of three designed to convert the plant into an efficient mill for producing commercial-grade plate and sheet steel.

The hot-strip mill and converter will make possible an annual rolling-mill output of 240,000 tons if operated with two shifts, and of 360,000 tons if operated with three shifts. Inasmuch as the new installation will consume 475,000 tons of raw steel per year, plans are now being made for expanding the company's steel-production facilities as well.

After extensive research and experimental work, metallurgists have succeeded in applying the oxygen-blowing process to the mass production of steel for the first time in the history of the industry. This is a development which may revolutionize steel refining. This process of blowing pure oxygen into the crucible from above results in a considerable saving in thermal energy, a cost reduction in plant facilities and in a marked improvement of the final product. At the new installation, steel is fed to the rolling train by two 30-ton converters and one 1000-ton hot-metal mixer. Future plans include the erection of a third converter. The capital investment program of the VOEST, which since May 1945 has reached a total of over one billion schillings, will be concluded in 1953 with the completion of the cold-rolling mill.

At the inauguration ceremony, President Koerner of Austria said that the shibboleth of Austria's unviability was an insult to the millions who had built a new country from the ruins of the war. U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson pointed out that the VOEST represented visible proof of the Austrian people's effective use of Marshall Plan aid. Minister of Transport and Nationalized Industries Waldbrunner stated that VOEST's gross business turnover in 1952 had totalled about 2.7 billion schillings and that exports alone had accounted for one billion. The company had needed only half of the money earned from exports to pay for the import of raw materials it required, primarily coal.

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AUSTRIA AND ARGENTINA CONCLUDE THIRTY-MILLION DOLLAR TRADE TREATY. It was recently announced that the negotiations carried on by an Austrian trade delegation and the Argentine Government between October 6 and 15, and later continued by the Austrian Embassy in Buenos Aires, led to the signing in December of a commercial agreement between the two countries.

The new trade treaty, which will run for a year, foresees a volume of business in excess of \$30,000,000 in each direction. Argentina will supply Austria primarily with hides, bread grain, fodder and wool, in exchange for Austrian iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, refractory products, milled lumber, cellulose, newsprint and other paper.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS PASS ONE-BILLION-SCHILLING MARK. The People's Party Press Service recently reported that in November 1952 Austria exported merchandise with a total value of 1,027,000,000 schillings, thus exceeding for the first time the value of monthly imports (884,000,000 schillings) by 143,000,000 schillings. The balance for all the months prior to November had improved by 1,098,000,000 schillings.

As compared to 1951, there was an aggregate increase of 102,000,000 schillings in Austria's foreign-trade balance, although ERP credits dropped by 738,000,000. Exports alone climbed from 8,631,000,000 to 9,834,000,000 schillings, an increase of almost 1.2 billion schillings.

O.E.E.C. REPORT NOTES ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The fourth annual report of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, of which excerpts were recently released in Paris, contains a comprehensive analysis of the economic situation in Austria. The report emphasizes the fact that, as a result of the strong postwar inflation, confidence in Austria's future was subjected to particular trial and strain. Nevertheless, significant progress has been made and the development of production was one of the fastest in Europe.

The internal financial stability so far achieved in Austria would appear to justify the expectation that the country's national savings will increase by 30% annually between 1952 and 1955. There is also hope that this period will see the re-emergence of a domestic money market.

In four years Austria managed to reduce her foreign-trade deficit by two thirds. The report expresses the belief that a further reduction of the balance-of-payments deficit — which in 1951 still totalled \$174,000,000 — to \$55,000,000 can be expected by 1954. Between now and 1955, agricultural production is to be increased by 21%, as compared to 1951, and industrial production by 22%. It is also hoped that the decline in foreign aid may by 1955 be offset by the annual 30% increase in savings.

The report warns that this favorable trend in Austria's economic and financial situation will follow the expected course only if stabilization is maintained, the budget balanced, productivity increased, agricultural output considerably raised and credits as well as investments handled with utmost responsibility.

DRAFT OF VIENNA CITY BUDGET SUBMITTED. At a meeting of the City Council in December, Councilman Resch submitted the 1953 draft budget for the city of Vienna. The budget is based on estimated receipts of 2688 million schillings and expenditures of 2865 million. This represents an increase of 84,000,000 schillings, or 3.2%, in receipts and of 128,000,000, or 4.7%, in expenditures, with the deficit raised from 131,000,000 (1952) to 176,000,000 schillings. Among the items of expenditure, 917,000,000 schillings are earmarked for the city payroll and 850,000,000 for its employment promotion program and labor offices. If the proposed budget is accepted, the City of Vienna will spend 810,-

000,000 schillings on welfare and health facilities and 463,000,000 on new construction and housing projects. This latter sum is expected to pay for the building of 5,000 normal size apartments and 1,000 small apartments. Thirty million have been set aside for subsidizing community and building cooperatives. Bridge and water-work construction will require an estimated 55,000,000. The municipal school system will be allocated 133,000,000 from the ordinary budget and 19,600,000 from the extraordinary budget. In 1953 the Vienna Municipal Works expect to do a gross business of 1,915,000,000 schillings. The aggregate investment total of Vienna's municipal administration, including all of the institutions and enterprises operated by it, will exceed 1.4 billion schillings.

Koerner's New Year's Message (cont'd from p. 1)

The Austrian Problem has Now Become One for World Conscience to Solve

In connection with the occupation of Austria, he had this to say: "Our appeal for justice and our demand for final release from undeserved tutelage have awakened an echo of sympathy out there in the world at large. The Austrian problem has been laid before the forum of the United Nations, to which the right of the small countries must not be of less concern than the might of the great powers. It has become a problem for world conscience to solve and therefore cannot again be buried in the dusty protocols of unfruitful conferences. Austria no longer stands half-forgotten in the dark. She has stepped into the spotlight of international public view. It will be up to us alone to prove that we need not shrink from this light. The more inner firmness, dignity and unity we show, the more assured we can be that our rights will prevail."

U.S. President-elect Familiar with Fate of Austria

"I am convinced," the Austrian Chief of State continued, "that the future President of the United States, experienced in his knowledge of European conditions, is not unaware of the particular tragedy of Austria's lot. And I know from personal experience that old soldiers, who know what war means, can have no higher aim for their activities in political life than the preservation of peace. In all sincerity, we can assure the world that the final liberation of Austria, her economic rehabilitation and her acceptance into the circle of the United Nations would serve no other aim but this one."

"Gratitude and justness bid us recall the generous aid extended to us by the United States. In 1952, too, the reconstruction of Austria's production apparatus has been effectively furthered by the Marshall Plan. To the new men who have been called to the rudder of state in America by the will of the people we now appeal not to withdraw their supporting hand — but we do so not as a nation of perennially indigent. All our efforts and our firm resolve are directed toward laying the foundation for a new and self-supporting existence, after we were forcibly robbed of our old one in 1938 as the world looked on in silent sufferance."

AUSTRIAN BANKS REQUEST LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THEM TO DRAW UP FRESH BALANCE SHEETS.

Austria's banks recently prepared a draft for a Parliamentary bill shortly to be submitted to the Minister of Finance, which would authorize them to draw up realistic balance sheets by wiping out the largely fictitious entries made during the war and immediate postwar periods. During the war and its aftermath, Austria's banks were compelled to accept German war bonds. As a result, they lost a major part of their funds and holdings when these bonds became practically worthless at the end of the war. The banks thus lost about two thirds of their deposits. Part of this debt was wiped out by special legislation; the balance had to be made good by the banks themselves. Now that past liabilities have more or less been met, the banks are anxious to establish realistic balance sheets. The new bill would make this possible, since it would authorize the banks to write off all war losses and show the use made of postwar profits.

WHERE DOES AUSTRIA'S OIL GO?

The Austrian Socialist News Service recently reported that "an objective investigation by specialists in the field" has revealed that the Russian occupation authorities removed 6.8 million tons of oil from the country's petroleum fields between 1947 and 1951, and that 4.2 million tons of this output were shipped to the Communist countries of Eastern Europe. During this same period, the Soviet Petroleum Administration allowed Austria to purchase 2.6 million tons of oil products, thus creating the anomaly of Austria having to buy back from the Russian Occupying Power some of the yield from her own mineral resources. Total oil output for the years 1945 and 1946 is estimated to have amounted to one million tons.

A high percentage of the oil (about 30%) is sent to Czechoslovakia for the production of lubricating oil, another 30% is shipped to Black Sea ports, 25% goes to Eastern Germany and the balance to Poland.

Austria's Economy Deprived of \$100,000,000

The total value of all the petroleum products shipped out of Austria by the Russian Occupying Power has been estimated at 100,000,000 dollars. This represents about two thirds of the lump-sum payment the Russians have demanded from Austria as redemption for the so-called "German assets" seized by them pursuant to the terms of the Potsdam Agreement. Petroleum production has increased very rapidly following the discovery by the Russians of the rich oil fields of Matzen and Aderklaa in 1949 and 1950. In 1951 it was estimated to have gone up to some 2.2 million tons, while the 1952 output is believed to have exceeded the three-million-ton mark. The unmethodical drilling methods the Russians have been using in their indiscriminate exploitation have led to the premature depletion of numerous heretofore productive deposits. In some instances the gas pressure dropped too much, in others the oil was too highly diluted. At the present time, the news item concludes, the Soviet authorities are prospecting for additional oil in the area of Baden, on the slopes of the Leithagebirge and south of the Danube near Fischamend.

COMPULSORY RUSSIAN TRANSPORTATION CERTIFICATE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Austrian Socialist News Service recently stated that the "vexatious compulsory transportation certificate which the Russian authorities still continue to require for shipments to or through their zone, seven and a half years after the end of the war, is restricting Austrian trade and depriving hundreds of workers in the Russian-occupied areas of work and a chance to make a living."

This red tape was also adversely affecting interzonal domestic trade, as evidenced, for example, by the fact that whereas certain plants in Upper Austria had previously sent their electric motors to Vienna and Lower Austria for repair, they were now sending them to the Elin Works in Styria, in order to circumvent Russian controls and avoid their time-consuming transportation formalities.

FOUNDRY RESEARCH LABORATORY NEARING COMPLETION IN LEOBEN, STYRIA.

The new Foundry Research Laboratory at Leoben, Styria, where Austria's mining college is located, is now nearing completion and actual research work is expected to start in June 1953. The institute, where research will be conducted for Austria's foundries, was built with funds provided from ERP counterpart releases (5,000,000 schillings) and by the metallurgical industry (700,000 schillings). It will be operated and maintained by the industry itself.

SABENA AIRLINES INAUGURATE PARIS-SALZBURG WINTER SEASON FLIGHTS.

With the start of the winter tourist season, the Belgian SABENA Airlines inaugurated a regular bi-weekly service from Paris to Salzburg via Brussels. Flights leave Paris at 8:25 A.M. and arrive in Salzburg at 1:00 p.m. thus bringing Salzburg's winter-sport resorts within a half-day's travel from the French capital.

It is also reported that in October 1952 the Salzburg airport was used by 240 airliners carrying 5,763 incoming and outgoing passengers.

AUSTRIAN-ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV SKI COMPETITION PLANNED.

Talks were recently held in Tarvisio, for a three-nation skiing competition to be held in February between national teams from Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia. The downhill race is scheduled to be held in Tarvisio, Italy, the jumping competition in Villach, Austria, and the long-distance race in Planica, Yugoslavia.

"MODERN LIVING" EXHIBITION OPENED IN VIENNA.

Last December the Museum of Applied Art in Vienna opened a special home furnishing exhibition entitled "Modern Living," at which modern principles of interior decoration are being featured. A visitors' poll is being conducted to ascertain the reaction of the public to the new interiors on display. Those items of furniture and furniture accessories which meet with the greatest public favor will then be mass-produced by the Austrian furniture industry.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

**"AUSTRIAN VILLAGE
IN WINTER" (1949-50)**
Oil painting by
Ernest Huber
now in the
Horelik Private Collection
(Pittsburgh)



ERNST HUBER, ONE OF AUSTRIA'S GREATEST PAINTERS, NOW IN NEW YORK. Professor Ernst Huber, who together with Oskar Kokoschka and Franz Gueterloh ranks among Austria's greatest living painters, is now in New York painting scenes from the city's life, its skyline and port. His painting, "Austrian Village in Winter," reproduced on this page, was selected by the Director of the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh for the exhibition "Contemporary European Painting" held in 1950.

Ernst Huber was born in Vienna on July 15, 1895. First a type-setter, later a lithographer, and illustrator, he finally turned to painting in 1919. He first attracted attention in Viennese art circles with an exhibition of sixteen paintings, and by 1930 he had become a leading member of the Vienna "Sezession" Movement. His works are on display in many public galleries in Vienna, Berlin, London and Warsaw, as well as at the Pesaro Museum and in the Algiers Museum. Since 1949 Ernst Huber has been a professor and in 1952 he was awarded the First Prize for Painting in Salzburg.

Professor Ernst Huber has travelled extensively in the course of his life and visited South America, Africa and Asia. On several occasions he represented Austria at the Venice Biennale. In addition to paintings, Ernst Huber also creates monotypes, lithographs and hand-prints by various techniques.

"SUB AUSPICIIS PRAESIDENTIS" DEGREE CONFERRED FOR THE FIRST TIME. A doctor's degree bearing the inscription "sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae" (under the Auspices of the President of the Republic) was recently conferred for the first time in Innsbruck, Tyrol. The recipi-

ent of this honor was 24-year-old Hans Hittmair, the son of a Vienna University professor who lectures on English and Romance Philology. In addition to his Ph. D., young Hittmair received from President Theodor Koerner a golden signet ring with the Austrian coat of arms and the inscription "sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae."

With this ceremony, President Koerner revived an old Austrian tradition. Prior to 1918, students who had completed all their studies with the highest marks not only received their degree but were also honored with a ring bearing the inscription "sub auspiciis imperatoris" (under the Auspices of the Emperor).

FAITH IN GOD IS BASIS OF HAPPINESS AND PEACE, CARDINAL INNITZER SAYS IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE. In a New Year's message broadcast over the Austrian radio, Archbishop Theodor Cardinal Innitzer told the Austrian people that "even if for us the coming year is veiled in darkness, one thing is certain and that is that it will again be a year of the Lord. Whether it is also a year of the Lord for us, depends on ourselves and on how we make the decisions with which we are confronted. Our guiding principle should always be to seek the realm of God and Divine justice. Only faith in God is the basis for true happiness and genuine peace."

He also said that Austria still did not have the freedom for which all her citizens so eagerly yearned, that the Church was still waiting for those rights to be accorded her which she could not renounce, and that men and heads of families were still being separated from their loved ones by force. But in spite of this, Cardinal Innitzer concluded, the fine, beautiful and good things should not be forgotten -- the loyal per-

formance of duty, the quiet work of Christian love, and the prayers and sacrifices of the devout.

AUSTRIAN UNESCO COMMISSION AWARDS PRIZES IN VIENNA. On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, which was proclaimed on December 10, 1948, the Austrian UNESCO Commission awarded a number of prizes in the field of literature. Dr. Friedrich Kaufmann received the 3,000-schilling prize for an as yet unpublished drama dealing with the fight for human rights, and Dr. Siegfried Freiberg was awarded the 2,000-schilling prize for his play, "Das kleine Weltwirtschaftshaus" recently performed at the Theater der Courage in Vienna.

The Prize of the League of the United Nations, which consists of a free week in Paris for study at the International Theater Institute, was given to Prof. Josef Hendrych for his work, "Tropenhochzeit."

EMINENT MUSIC TEACHER AND ART DESIGNER RECEIVE HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP. On the recommendation of the Austrian Minister of Education, President Theodor Koerner has conferred the title of Honorary Professor on the music teacher Paul Emerich and the art designer Josef Binder, two prominent Austrian-born artists now living in the United States. Consul General Dr. Franz Matsch presented the diplomas on January 8, 1953. This marked the first time since the war that famous artists living abroad have been so honored.

Josef Binder won the first and second prizes in the 1941 Defense Poster Competition sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He is internationally recognized for having established principles of modern design for advertising and industry.

Paul Emerich has been living and working in New York since 1939. His new method of Music Memory Training has attracted considerable attention in the United States and many pianists have availed themselves of his teaching. In the spring of 1952 he was called to the State Academy where he gave two courses.

AUSTRIAN STATE PRIZE FOR LITERATURE AWARDED TO MARTINA WIED. In December 1952, Mrs. Martina Wied, the Austrian poet, was awarded the Austrian State Prize for Literature on her 70th birthday. The prize carries a grant of 20,000 schillings.

Mrs. Wied, whose maiden name was Schnabl, was born in Vienna in 1882. For many years she lectured on the history of art at the University of Vienna. In 1919 she published her first book of poems, entitled "Bewegung," for which she received the Poetry Prize of the City of Vienna five years later. Subsequently she wrote a short story, several plays and a number of novels. It is to the latter that she owes her reputation as an author. A new edition of her novel, "Rauch ueber St. Florian" (Smoke Over St. Florian) which was first published in 1936, appeared in 1949. Her other novels are "Kellingrath," "Das Asyl zum obdachlosen Geist," "Das Kraehennest," and "Geschichte des reichen Juenglings." She has also written a book of verse entitled "Bruecken ins Sichtbare."

AUSTRIAN MUSIC EXPORTS FIVE TIMES AS LARGE AS MUSIC IMPORTS. The "Gesellschaft der Autoren, Komponisten und Musikverleger" (Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers), which is responsible for the collection and distribution of royalties, recently announced that Austria is exporting about five times as many pieces of music as she imports. Prior to the Nazi occupation of Austria, when many of the well-known Austrian composers were still alive and not yet in exile, the balance was 18 to 1 in favor of Austria. In 1951, the Society collected some ten million schillings in royalties and last year's total presumably reached twelve million. In 1951, nineteen members received more than 100,000 schillings through the Society; twenty received more than 50,000; one hundred and ten received more than 10,000 and eighty-four more than 5,000 schillings. About 2,200 members received less than 5,000 schillings for the entire year of 1951.

SCHEDULE OF VIENNA CHOIR BOYS' U.S. AND CANADIAN TOUR.

JANUARY

- 4 Boston, Mass.;
- 5 Lynn, Mass.;
- 7 Ridgewood, N.J.;
- 8 Saco, Me.;
- 9 Plattsburgh, N.Y.;
- 10 Montreal, Can.
- 12 Toronto, Can.
- 13 Toronto, Can.
- 14 Kitchener, Can.
- 15 Kitchener, Can.
- 16 Ann Arbor, Mich.
- 17 Mansfield, Ohio
- 18 Windsor, Can.
- 19 De Kalb, Ill.
- 20 Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
- 21 Hibbing, Minn.
- 22 Virginia, Minn.
- 23 Duluth, Minn.
- 25 Elgin, Ill.
- 26 Vincennes, Ind.
- 27 Cedar Falls, Iowa
- 28 Cedar Falls, Iowa
- 30 Cincinnati, Ohio
- 31 Cleveland, Ohio

FEBRUARY

- 2 Old Hickory, Tenn.
- 3 Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- 4 Spartanburg, S.C.
- 5 Morristown, Tenn.
- 7 Bogalusa, La.
- 9 Baton Rouge, La.
- 10 New Iberia, La.
- 11 Austin, Texas

- 13 Corpus Christi, Texas
- 16 Pueblo, Colo.
- 17 Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 18 Denver, Colo.
- 19 Greeley, Colo.
- 21 Rapid City, S.D.
- 23 Helena, Mont.
- 24 Butte, Mont.
- 26 Provo, Utah
- 28 Boise, Idaho

MARCH

- 1 Pullman, Wash.
- 2 Kelso, Wash.
- 3 Portland, Ore.
- 4 Eugene, Ore.
- 4 Albany, Ore.
- 5 Redding, Cal.
- 7 San Gabriel, Cal.
- 8 San Diego, Cal.
- 13 Ripon, Wisc.
- 14 Berrien Springs, Mich.
- 15 Chicago, Ill.
- 16 Normal, Ill.
- 17 Peoria, Ill.
- 18 Wheaton, Ill.
- 19 Naperville, Ill.
- 21 Aurora, N.Y.
- 22 New York, N.Y.
- 23 Bethlehem, Pa.
- 24 Washington, D.C.
- 25 Shippensburg, Pa.
- 26 Monessen, Pa.
- 28 Lewisburg, Pa.
- 29 Hartford, Conn.

FESTIVAL CITY OF SALZBURG TO CELEBRATE MOZART YEAR IN 1956. In 1956 the Festival City of Salzburg will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with special "Mozart Year" festivities. Preliminary work has already begun, although no program details have as yet been announced.

TOMB UNEARTHED NEAR VIENNA BELIEVED TO BE THAT OF ST. SEVERINUS. Recent excavations near the foundation walls of the church at Heiligenstadt, a Vienna suburb famous for its associations with Beethoven, have led to the discovery of a Christian burial ground which may be the tomb of St. Severinus, the Christian monk of the 5th century (he died in 482). The excavations unearthed a square of walls, 20 x 22 ft., made of bricks bearing the emblem of the

Tenth Roman Legion and dating back to various building periods between the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 5th century A.D. Within this square, which was probably the foundation of a Roman watch tower and part of the defenses erected along the "Limes" (boundary) on the Danube, a tomb and a recess lined with flagstones, presumably a font, were built at a later date. Archeologists hold that this was a Christian tomb of a highly revered personality and conclude that it is probably the tomb of St. Severinus, who was the only Christian of renown active in the Danube region in the 5th century.

FIRST PERFORMANCE OF "DR. EISENBART". At the end of November, the Salzburg Landestheater presented the premiere of Hermann Hermecke's "Doctor Eisenbart" to an enthusiastic audience. This work is based on the adventures of the historical figure of Eisenbart, the quack doctor who roamed the countryside after the Thirty Years' War. This satire of the period is a combination of opera, operetta and stage play.

Nico Dostal's orchestration represents a radical departure from the usual musical form, in that his score is written for only 16 wind and percussion instruments. This is in keeping with the nature of the work, in which the text is meant to dominate the music.

HINDEMITH DONATES AUTOGRAPHED CONCERTO SCORE TO AUSTRIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY. Paul Hindemith recently donated an autographed score of his "Concerto

for Violin and Orchestra" (1939) to the music collection of the Austrian National Library in Vienna.

Hindemith visited the library during his last trip to Vienna in the fall of 1952 and spent some time looking at its famous collection of autographed scores of such great composers as Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven and Bruckner. His interest is reported to have centered primarily on the scores of Bruckner's symphonies.

VIENNA AND LISBON RADIO STATIONS EXCHANGE MUSIC RECORDS. The Austrian Red-White-Red radio network and the Emissora Nacional de Radiodifusao in Lisbon recently launched an exchange program of recorded Portuguese and Austrian music.

AMERICAN PRACTICE MUSIC PERFORMED IN VIENNA. The Viennese concert-going public recently heard a performance of practice music by the American Pulitzer-Prize composer Ernest Bacon. His four-hand "Suite for Piano" was presented at the Kosmostheater with the composer and the Viennese pianist Alfred Kremala at the keyboard. This work, which was composed for student and teacher practice, is divided into four sections of increasingly more demanding technique and is based on folk-song themes. The composer's "Sonata for Cello and Piano," a "Lento" and a somewhat modern "motorized" fugue were also included on the program.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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